

Use on Federal Employees to Be Probed

Hill Unit Eyes U. S. Lie Tests

The House Information subcommittee is going to look into the Government's use of lie detectors.

At public hearings April 7-9, the subcommittee also may examine the increasing use of polygraphs in private industry to check on employees and interview job applicants.

OWN PROBE

Rep. Cornelius Gallagher, (D., N. J.), sparked the inquiry.

He made a preliminary investigation, and the subcommittee staff then conducted an extensive survey on lie detector use in the Government. It found that:

- During the year ending June 30, 1963, Federal agencies performed 23,122 lie tests.

- There are 656 "authorized polygraph operators" in the Government whose qualifications range from a high school diploma to a Ph.D degree. While experts disagree on effectiveness of the lie detector, virtually all agree it is only as good as the judgment and interpretation of its operator.

- Of the 24 agencies that permit use of lie detectors, only seven have formal regulations governing their use.

VIET NAM

Since the survey was made, it has been reported U. S. military advisers in South Viet Nam have been using polygraph tests to determine whether native troops are loyal to the Saigon government.

Rep. Gallagher said he hoped the subcommittee looks into this as well as into last year's situation in which 3494 Cuban refugees were given lie tests prior to their enlistment in the U. S. Army.

Subcommittee Chairman John E. Moss (D., Calif.) has notified him, he said, that the hearings will be aimed at developing standard rules to cover Government operation of lie detectors.

PRIVATE FIELD

After that, Rep. Gallagher said, he would like the investigation to expand to find out how extensively the machines are being used in private industry.

He said he is not sure whether an individual's constitutional rights are abridged when he is asked to take a lie test while applying for a job, or after he has been hired.

"I think it's a cloudy legal area," he said. "If a man refuses to take a test he might lose his job or fail to get one that he applied for. His employment rights are jeopardized." (UPI)